

HOUSE RESOLUTION 173

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to recognize the House Chamber as the site of the final vote cast in the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREAS, after decades of debate on women's suffrage, Congress passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919, stating that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, however, in order for the amendment to become law, it required ratification by at least thirty-six states, a three-fourths majority of the total forty-eight states that comprised the union at that time; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to ratify the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, thus bringing to fruition the tireless efforts of three generations of suffragists and granting the right to vote to twenty-seven million women across the nation; and

WHEREAS, prominent leaders of the women's suffrage movement in Tennessee included Juno Frankie Pierce, Lizzie Crozier French, and Anne Dallas Dudley; the work of these intrepid individuals and the dedication of the State of Tennessee to women's rights have paved the way for countless Tennessee women to forge their own path in their respective fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, such women include philanthropist, literacy advocate, and country music icon Dolly Parton; Civil Rights activist Maxine Smith; Tennessee's first female prosecutor, Martha Craig Daughtrey; Civil Rights activist and State Representative Lois DeBerry; women's sports icon Pat Summitt; and Beth Harwell, the first woman to serve as Tennessee's Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the State of Tennessee reified its commitment to women's equality with a year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's final vote in the ratification of the 19th Amendment was the crowning moment in an extended, hard-fought effort to redress the unjust denial of women the right to vote, and it is fitting that we confer honor upon the place wherein this imperative action occurred; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize the House Chamber as the site of the final vote cast in the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, granting the women of this country the right to vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and displayed in the chamber of the House of Representatives, with this final clause omitted from such copy.